

Latest Luxuries in Lenten Fashions



By GRACE MARGARET GOULD.

It is only figuratively speaking that Lent means sackcloth and ashes to the society woman. She rests a bit more, to be sure, and perhaps doubles her treatments of facial massage, but as for penance substituting social gaieties there is none of it. That is, as far as outward appearances go.

She is busy flitting here and there to bridge whist parties and attending morning lectures and musicales, and with luncheons, literary evenings and her dressmaker, the society woman finds that life is almost as strenuous as when the season is on.

Some Lenten Blouses.

The dressmakers are turning out many fascinating fashions these Lenten days, fashions that are not only worth studying because of their charm and beauty, but because of the secrets they reveal of the Easter fashions that are to come.

The fact that the skirt and coat costume has become indispensable to the well-gowned woman assures the continued success of the separate waist. The blouses which are being worn right now are altogether lovely.

A special fad of the moment is to repeat the color note of the gown in the blouse, just to show that they belong with one another. This is accomplished by an embroidered design or a velvet or silk inset. A white lace blouse will be trimmed, for example, with bands of stitched silk, also in white, and upon these silk bands an embroidered or velvet design will be seen, the design matching the color of the skirt and coat.

Russian Lace and Violet Velvet.

A blouse made to order purposely to wear with a deep violet cloth costume was of Russian lace with violet velvet orchids arranged as a trimming down the front of the waist. The crush collar was also of violet velvet, and the deep cuffs showed a piping of the velvet, as well as a decoration of the velvet applique.

Many of the blouses worn at Lenten luncheons and bridge whist parties proudly proclaim the fact that they are expensive luxuries.

A new idea is the lace blouse with inset designs of exquisite gold lace. The effect is wonderfully lovely. Finely tucked brown chiffon waists also show a touch of gold, sometimes merely in the deep girdle belt and stock, and then again by having a bit of gold ribbon gleam between the tucks.

Tempting Outlook for Spring.

Ribbon embroidery is much used as a trimming for the fancy separate waist. Some dainty design often decorates the front of the blouse or outlines the deep yoke. Shirred ribbon if formed in artistic designs, and pretty effects are obtained by having the ribbon the same color as the blouse, only a tint lighter or darker. Silk voile, Swiss embroidered mull, ombre chiffon, lace and printed Brussels net, as well as the new soft taffeta with a messaline finish, are the materials most used for the blouses which are now being worn. A little later on the lingerie blouse will out-rival all others. It will be a mass of fine lace and hand embroidery, and for its foundation the finest India lawn, organdie and batiste will be used. Very many of the blouses button up the back and are made with a deep yoke and cuffs.

Tailors Have Evolved a New Idea.

A new style of tailor-made gown has been introduced this Lenten season, and is worn with the fancy blouse. It strikes a happy medium between the much trimmed, dressy tailor-made and the plain instep length, smart-looking tailored suit. It is a French tailor-made gown of severe simplicity and yet with so many graceful lines that it is peculiarly fascinating. The skirt is full and made with a demi-train, and generally it is but little trimmed. The coat is on the order of the Louis XVI habit coat. It is short, falling just over the hips, and is tight fitting. Made of black broadcloth and trimmed with black silk

A new French Tailor-made Gown of Severe Simplicity

OLD-TIME SILKEN FROCKS AND ORANGE BLOSSOMS

AMONG the combinations of color which are exercising the minds of the great powers in the world of fashion is blue and purple, the blue being the kind which is known as "sea blue," while the purple takes to itself a reddish tinge. Truth to tell, this particular melange is rather daring, but curious contrasts appear to be so much in fashion just now that we are bound to accept them together with all the many and various sensations to which we have almost grown accustomed of late. In the case of millinery there is a good deal of yellow to be seen, more especially a mixture of yellow and orange, and this is even to be observed on the newest blouses, the yellow being of a soft primrose hue and the orange introduced in the form of velvet trimming and buttons. And apropos it might be added that among the new linen costumes yellow is to play quite a leading part, one of the smartest frocks of the kind which was shown a little while ago at one of the most exclusive atteliers having been carried out in linen of an almost golden shade adorned with a yoke of hand-wrought linen lace to match, which was cut low so as to cover the shoulder, the sleeve being shaped into the irregular edges of the lace. In this case the gown was really refreshingly simple, medallions of lace figuring at intervals on the skirt and we lace buttons being the only forms of supplementary adornment introduced. Pink linen will likewise form the groundwork for some beautiful gowns and white linen will also be much used.

Women were rather amused when first (some little time ago) mankind

began to rebel at the restrictions convention had passed upon his clothes, but now the murmur is a loud complaint; they are insisting on being heard, these men folk, who want to restore to their sex their ancient and historic right to wear fine feathers. An outfitter in town declared the other day that for quite a long time now his customers have been demanding that their woven undergarments should be of pure silk and the richest quality, and heigho! of delicate color, whilst an observant bootmaker has been heard to remark that nowadays it is the men who make revelation of very expensive pure silk hosiery. A woman may give \$5 or \$6 for her stockings, but a man will give \$10 for his socks; and in this covert way, unbeknown to the man in the street, the sterner sex has been indulging his secret love of luxury.

It comes to this, that human vanity will have its way. Poor, dear man, denied, by convention, outer garments of the more luxurious sort, takes it out in costly silk unmentionables, and having armies of boots and drawers full of neckties and handkerchiefs of the costliest lawn and sumptuous silken socks and suits, not in sufficient but of quite superfluous quantity, which appeals to me always as a very ineffectual extravagance, when the ordinary observer can hardly tell one from the other, the range of fabric permitted to him, poor dear! being so limited. But it seems as if time was going to change all this, and now we are wondering in which direction it will break our first—this long-smothered, partially smothered passion for color and grace.

New Eton Sleeve with Lingerie Frills.

LENT is the golden opportunity of the society woman to revise her wardrobe for the coming campaigns at Newport and across the water. The dainty extravagances provided for her this year promise victories without number.

Rough Straw Hat with Roses surrounding the Crown

Luncheon Blouse of Lace and Embroidery

braided and gilt buttons, it is a fetching tailor costume for the woman of good figure. The sleeve is a modified model, fitting the arm very snugly above the elbow, and with only slight fullness below it. The cuff flares back from the wrist and is trimmed with gilt buttons. Perhaps this sleeve reveals a secret of the sleeves that are to come. A number of black and very dark gray gowns in this style are being worn during Lent. In fact, so great is the success of this style of costume that the fashionable woman feels she must now include it among her tailor-made gowns, and surely there are many times when it will be just the correct gown for the occasion. This does not mean, of course, that the elaborate tailor-made frock feels itself at all in the background, for never has there been a season, generally speaking, when skirt and coat costumes have been more elaborate.

Trimnings for Dark Cloth Gowns.

When dark shades of cloth are used both the skirt and the jacket will invariably be trimmed with some bright shade of velvet, braided in black, or heavy cream lace insets will be used, with a piping of velvet. The Eton jacket is the favorite model for the tailor-made gown, and the Eton which shows a narrow vest is extremely fashionable.

A dark blue tailor-made gown, which had just arrived from Paris when I saw it, was made of satin finish broadcloth, with a rather full short-trained skirt and an Eton jacket. The jacket was trimmed with black silk braid and made with a vest of cloth of gold, which was elaborately embroidered in coarse green silk threads. The sleeves were trimmed with the black silk braid, and were very full below the elbow and finished with deep lingerie frills. These frills were of the finest of plaited lawn, edged with lace, and a hemstitching of gold threads appeared to join the lace frill to the lawn.

Three Hats Are Now Necessary.

It is the same way in hats as in tailor costumes for Spring wear. There

are three distinct types of hats to wear with tailor-made gowns, when heretofore there has been but one. There is the stiff straw tailor hat, trimmed merely with a wing or a rosette to wear with the instep length tailor-made suit for every day wear, then the hat a bit more dashing and yet not too elaborate, which belongs with the French tailor frock, which shows the demi-train skirt and the tight fitting coat, and then there are hats, and many, many of them, which are designed purposely to give the finishing touch to the elaborate tailor-made gown. These hats are trimmed with flowers or feathers, and it is the proper thing to have them made to order.

In some way they must match the costume with which they are worn. It need not necessarily be in color, for a touch of the same trimming which decorates the gown is often all that is needed to carry out the idea of matching the hat to the frock.

Some New Picture Hats.

A feature of the picture hats designed for Springtime wear is their under brim trimming.

Pompadour net is a favorite facing. It is very lovely in fawn color scattered with garlands of pink rosebuds, especially when the hat is fawn-colored straw with pink roses as its trimmings.

One of the smartest of the new Spring hats is a dashing picture shape in rough black straw, the straw made to simulate folds. The rather high crown dented in the center is surrounded with pink roses. When the top of the hat is visible it has the effect of a flower-trimmed creation. But when one catches a glimpse of the flaring under brim the entire effect of the hat is changed. The under brim is of white straw and close to the hair is a smart-looking black velvet bow with a trailing white ostrich plume toward the back. These new hats, which can so readily appear two hats in one, promise to be much in demand by the woman who has the problem to solve of how to make a small income furnish a varied wardrobe.

LOVELY COLOR SCHEMES FOR NEW SPRING FROCKS

WHAT a world of difference lies between the taffeta frock of to-day and "the silk dress of the past!" Yet is the fabric one and the same thing, but for its finish; in the one case soft, and in the other case stiff and aggressive. Any one learned in textiles would explain that there was a difference between the glaces of long ago and the taffetas of to-day; but to the less sophisticated there are the same save for this sympathetic quality of softness in the latter-day version. And it is this softness of taffetas that makes it fall so gracefully into the lines of the frock skirt, and fits it for being manipulated into such winsome trimmings of itself for itself. An exquisitely picturesque Paquin frock seen lately was fashioned of apple-green taffeta, such a picturesque shade, and the gathered skirt was manipulated with rouleaux, &c., of the taffetas and fell open in front to reveal a panel of Alencon lace, while the décolleté bodice was decorated with the same lace and gold galon and a touch of black, just a suspicion. She was delightfully fair, the woman who wore it, with a pink and white complexion.

Orange Blossom Superseded.

One has only to read the paper or to attend two or three society weddings to realize that fashions in bridal attire are undergoing a change. White satin, for instance, is no longer inevitable, but has been exchanged for even lovelier materials, foamy chiffon, silvered gauze, or softest silk muslin and lace. Veils of the last-named material have

Simple Garments for Out-of-Doors.

Scotch tweeds and coarse hopsacks are in greater demand than ever for outdoor costumes, and as goods of this kind are low in price and rich extra wide, the cost of a dress is no considerable if made at home. The construction of a bolero or a coat is simplicity itself, for outdoor garments are all loose-fitting, and therefore do not need to be accurately fitted to the figure. All the newest shapes in skirts for ordinary wear are made to clear the ground at the back, and there is more fullness over the hips; this is a much more comfortable style for the winter than the ordinary light-fitting skirt. Loose-fitting flannel blouses are still very popular; the newest shape is completely closed in front, and there is no under-arm seam, as a side piece is cut all in one with the front. In order that the blouse may set to the figure over the hips, the material will have to be cut and left open from the waistline to the hem at the under-arm each side; the fastening is at the back. The newest shape sleeve for blouses is very much fuller at the cuff end, and can either be left open or gathered on to a velvet band at the wrist.